

Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 150700Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4869
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ALGIERS 1768

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SS, AG
SUBJECT: POLISARIO CLAIMS "AUDACIOUS OPERATION" IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO

1. ALGERIAN PRESS 14 JULY HEADLINES POLISARIO 5 JULY RAID ON TADARIT, NEAR TANTAN IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO. RAID ALLEGEDLY RESULTED IN 23 MOROCCAN PRISONERS, ONE OF WHO SUBSEQUENTLY DIED OF WOUNDS.

2. PRISONERS INTERVIEWED BY ALGERIAN PRESS IN "LIBERATED TERRITORY" THREE DAYS JOURNEY FROM CAPTURE. ALGERIAN PRESS ARTICLE DESCRIBED PRISONERS AS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II AND INDOCHINA AND WITH AVERAGE AGE OF 50, YOUNGEST BEING 45. PRESS ALSO REPORTS PRISONERS

SAYING THEY HAD BEEN TOLD TO EXPECT TO FIGHT CUBANS AND VIETNAMESE. THRUST OF PRESS COMMENTARY IS TO DEMONSTRATE HOW HASSAN REGIME DRAGGING BOTTOM OF BARREL FOR MANPOWER.

3. PRESS STRESSES OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY TWENTY POLISARIO AND WAS NOT, AS HASSAN HAS ALLEGED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SPEECH, QUESTION OF "ALGERIAN AGGRESSION". IN

PRESS CONFERENCE AT SITE ACTING POLISARIO SECY GEN
MAHFOUD LAROUSSI PRESENTED OPTIMISTIC BATTLEFIELD
PICTURE AND CONCLUDED THAT "THE SUMMER OFFENSIVE HAS
ONLY BEGUN".

4. COMMENT: (A) PRISONERS SHOWN IN NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHH
LOOK LIKE MAKHZANIS. (B) SUMMER HEAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AS
INHIBITING ON MILITARY ACTION AS WE HAD THOUGHT.
POLISARIO, AT LEAST, SEEMS WELL ABLE OPERATE IN EXTREME
TEMPERATURES. PARKER

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